



BOARD of DIRECTORS' MEETING

**Thursday, March 22, 2007
10:00 A.M.**

AGENDA

Coachella Valley Water District
Avenue 52 & Highway 111
Coachella, CA
(760) 564-4888

CALL TO ORDER, Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction. This time is reserved for matters not already on the Agenda. Remarks shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes unless additional time is authorized by the Board.*

CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive and File

- A. Minutes: February 22, 2007 (Attachment 1, Pages 1-4)
- B. Warrant Register Ratification 02/01/07 to 02/28/07 issued by the SSA (Attachment 2, Page 5)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Required Elements of a Preferred Alternative (Attachment 3, Pages 6-9)
- B. State Advisory Committee Report

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Community Outreach Program Status
 - A. List of Pending Resolutions
 - 1. City of Indian Wells
 - 2. City of Palm Desert
 - 3. Riverside County Farm Bureau
 - B. Salton Sea Authority – All Resolutions of Support Received (Attachment 4, Pages 10-11)

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Army Corp of Engineers Water Resources Development Act Proposed Language (Attachment 5, Pages 12-15)
- 2. Member Information / Discussion / Correspondence / Upcoming Meetings & Events
 - A. Board Meeting for April 26, 2007
- 3. Next Scheduled Board Meeting: April 26, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to be held at the Imperial Irrigation District, Avenue 58, La Quinta, California.

ADJOURNMENT



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 22, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) Board of Directors (Board) was called to order by Peter Nelson, Vice-President, at 10:00 a.m., February 22, 2007, at The Torres Martinez Reservation in Thermal, CA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESENT

Marion Ashley
Larry Grogan
James Hanks
Corky Larson
Al Loya, Secretary
Joe Loya
Stella Mendoza
Peter Nelson, Vice President
Roy Wilson

AGENCY

Riverside County
Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Tribe
Torres Martinez Tribe
Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Water District
Riverside County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ABSENT

Gary Wyatt, President

AGENCY

Imperial County

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Brinegar, Environmental Recovery Solutions (ERS), thanked the Salton Sea Authority Board and staff for their work in fish clean-up efforts. He expressed concern about the February, 2007 fish die-off that occurred at the Salton Sea and discussed the possibility of contacting local and federal elected officials and to request funding to establish a clean-up program.

Jack Crayon, California Fish and Game, stated that the number of tilapia in the Salton Sea is extremely high, and there exists the real possibility of a large-scale fish die-off.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2007
- B. Warrant Register Ratification 1/01/07 to 1/31/07

A motion was made by Stella Mendoza and seconded by Marion Ashely to approve the Consent Calendar.

There were no objections. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. FISH DIE-OFF

Rick Daniels explained to the Board that the recent fish die-off was caused by a cold snap, and that the Authority had funding from the EPA for fish clean-up until 18 months ago. Both DWR and California Fish and Game consider the fish die-offs an "aesthetic" problem, and will not provide funding for clean-up. Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia has introduced Emergency Relief Funding Legislation that may provide funding to the Authority for fish clean-up. The issue that needs to be addressed is how to reduce the tilapia load in the Sea until the Sea is restored. Fish die-offs will continue to happen as long as the numbers of fish are as high as they currently are. The need to harvest fish should be investigated and addressed.

2. REPORTS

Four reports were submitted to the Board by the Executive Director.

A. Economic Benefits report prepared by K2 Economics: A restored Sea could provide \$1-6 billion per year in economic benefits. This is phase one of a three phase project.

B. Local Financial Capabilities report prepared by Del Rio Advisors: studied local funding alternatives, including local infrastructure financing.

C. Response to Salton Sea Coalition questions prepared by Arcadis: answered the Coalition's questions, but more depth in the responses is needed.

D. Indian Gaming Fund Grant Applications: the tribes pay the State a fee per slot machine in the casinos. The funds are used to provide grants for non-gaming items. The Authority has applied for \$400,000 from those funds.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on February 13, 2007. Dan Parks, Coachella Valley Water District reported on the meeting.

A Controlled Eutrophication Project (CEP) that would involve construction of a phosphorous removal system on the New and/or Alamo River or within the south end of the Sea was presented at the TAC meeting. This demonstration project would utilize the research and development of a CEP project by Kent SeaTech. The Authority and Kent SeaTech propose to conduct a project to further develop and evaluate the CEP technology.

A Wetlands Project report was presented at the TAC meeting by Sujoy Roy of TetraTech. Information was distributed, and TAC members were asked to submit comments on the report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM STATUS

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

A list of newly passed resolutions was submitted to the Board. The communities that have supported the Authority's plan have been presented with information on the other alternatives for restoration of the Sea.

2. DISCUSSION OF DAM LOCATION/WATER INFLOWS

Rick Daniels reported that the location of the Dam in the Authority's plan depends on the inflows to the Sea. The Authority's plan has been revised to show where the dam would be located if inflows were

800,000 acre feet per year (AFY) and where the dam would be located if inflows were 717,000 AFY. The final decision on where the dam will be built will be addressed in a Project Specific EIR/S Plan.

Director Larson stated that the Board never accepted the 717,000 AFY alternative or the movement of the dam structure. Director Larson indicated wherever the dam goes is forever, and the North Lake should be as large as possible. It was pointed out that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) report based its ranking of the Authority's plan on the new placement of the dam. Director Larson does not want the Authority to accept the State's numbers on inflows when making decisions about the placement of the dam.

Director Mendoza report that IID has passed a resolution against any future water transfers. Director Nelson commented that the QSA inflow numbers should be correct. The Authority's upper level number should be 900,000 AFY even though the Authority's plan that was submitted to DWR for the Programmatic DEIR was based on 812,000 AFY.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PROJECTS TO PURSUE FUNDING FROM THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT BILL OF 2005

In 2005, Congress authorized \$26 million for the Salton Sea Restoration as part of the Water Resource Development Act. The Authority intends to seek authorization of five projects at \$5 million in Federal funding for each project. The projects are: Early Start Habitat, Environmental Compliance Documentation, CEP, Environmental Monitoring Program and Preliminary Design Work for an EIR/S. Staff met with the Corps of Engineers to discuss these projects, and the Corps wants to include the projects in the WRDA funding. Matching funds are required, and the Wildlife Conservation Board and DWR will be contacted as possible sources of funding.

2. CONTROLLED EUTROPHICATION PROJECT (CEP)

Beginning in 2002 under a contract from the SSA, Kent SeaTech Corporation and Clemson University in South Carolina made considerable progress in the development of a nutrient reduction technology called CEP. CEP has shown high potential for removing dilute concentrations of phosphorus from the input flows to the Sea. The Authority will continue to work with Kent SeaTech to use the technology for the Sea.

3. RESTORATION PLANNING FIVE YEAR PLAN

The goal of the Five-Year Plan would be to complete the environmental compliance and permitting processes, prepare detailed designs for the major elements of the Salton Sea Revitalization Plan, start construction on key components, and implement a monitoring program. Federal and State money will be needed if the plan is developed, with \$1 billion needed over the next five years. Director Larson stated that private capital is important in the funding of the plan. The Authority should work with the County Treasurers in Imperial and Riverside Counties for assistance. Rick Daniels will take the Five-Year Plan to Washington, D.C. to present it to elected officials and request funding.

A motion was made by Roy Wilson and seconded by Stella Mendoza to receive the Five Year Plan as a draft plan, to continue work on it, and for the Executive Director, Rick Daniels, to present the plan to legislators and secure funding for the plan. There were no objections. The motion carried.

4. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORT

Mike Walker, Bureau of Reclamation, presented the BOR's report on the Salton Sea restoration alternative plans. The report addressed the differences in the alternatives, BOR's design requirements, comparison of

costs, overview of risks and uncertainties and considerations for the future. One conclusion by BOR is that geotubes are not feasible as they would not meet BOR standards. The Authority has begun a review of BOR's report and a report will be issued in the next two weeks. It is the Authority's position that the proposed dam should use the State's guidelines and standards as opposed to BOR's standards.

5. LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY

The State has three groups studying the alternatives to restore the Sea, and the Authority has been asked what the "must haves" in an alternative are. Rick Daniels presented a report on required elements of a preferred alternative. The Board needs to decide what parts of the plan are non-negotiable, and report to the Executive Director.

Senator Ducheny has introduced a bill requesting funding for the Restoration Project. Discussion of adding State representation to the SSA Board was held. Supervisor Ashley suggested that two positions be added. Director Mendoza commented that local control must be held.

Rick Daniels stated that the arena is shifting to Sacramento. The Authority member organizations' lobbyists need to add the Salton Sea Restoration to their legislative agenda. State-wide and national constituencies are needed for the success of any restoration plan. For the Authority's plan to succeed, state and national interests will need to be obtained.

6. MEMBER INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/CORRESPONDENCE/UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Al Loya reported that the Torres Martinez Tribal Council gave approval to share the information they have been provided by their consultants on the rock source for the Authority's restoration project.

7. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting is March 22, 2007 at the Coachella Valley Water District in Coachella, Ca.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Peter Nelson adjourned the meeting at 12:25 a.m.

Warrant Register
February 1, 2007 to February 28, 2007



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
02/13/07	13762	Arcadis G&M, Inc	\$ 29,421.96
02/13/07	13763	Cingular Wireless	98.83
02/13/07	13764	Dan Cain Reimbursement	1,168.77
02/13/07	13765	County of Riverside	3,459.11
02/13/07	13766	Del Rio Advisors	5,426.50
02/13/07	13767	Federal Express	301.18
02/13/07	13768	Geniene Croft Reimbursement	78.20
02/13/07	13769	Harsch Realty	3,150.99
02/13/07	13770	Hasler Financial	157.30
02/13/07	13771	Innovative Document	15.45
02/13/07	13772	Kent SeaTech	16,932.31
02/13/07	13773	Mail Boxes	7.00
02/13/07	13774	Office Depot	13.90
02/13/07	13775	O'Reilly Public Relations	36,595.10
02/13/07	13776	Printing Place	187.49
02/13/07	13777	Qwest Communications	50.94
02/13/07	13778	Resource Consrvn Development	500.00
02/13/07	13779	Reliance Communications	4,550.44
02/13/07	13780	Southwest Networks	151.94
02/13/07	13781	Time Warner Cable	124.95
02/13/07	13782	Verizon	727.98
02/23/07	13783	Best Best & Krieger	1,782.43
01/23/07	13784	Conveyor Group	93.75
01/23/07	13785	CVEP	21,674.90
01/23/07	13786	Richard Daniels Reimbursement	3,901.81
01/23/07	13787	Federal Express	95.67
01/23/07	13788	O'Reilly Public Relations	18,712.97
01/23/07	13789	Petty Cash	21.97
01/23/07	13790	Sierra Springs	29.00
01/23/07	13791	Southwest Networks	156.25
			149,589.09

Warrant Register
February 1, 2007 to February 28, 2007



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount



Required Elements of a Preferred Alternative March 13, 2007

The state environmental review of proposed options for restoration of the Salton Sea will result in a recommendation by the Secretary of Resources for a Preferred Alternative to the Legislature as soon as April 2007. State Officials have stated publicly that it is their prerogative to use portions of any or all of the proposed alternatives studied during the Programmatic EIR process to form the basis of the Preferred Alternative. Now is the time for the Authority to identify the non-negotiable elements of its Plan to insure a strong and consistent position going forward.

Inflows. The Authority position is that the final Preferred Alternative must accommodate a variety of inflows consistent with the QSA EIR.

The Authority's water inflow model assumes that there will be sustained inflows of approximately 800,000 acre feet per year (AFY) over the next 75 years; well below the 1.3M AFY which is the 50 year historic inflow. The Authority water model assumes that 300,000 AFY will be transferred to urban users for at least 45 years. Further, the model assumes 130,000 AFY from Mexico will decrease to 20,000 AFY as wastewater is treated and reclaimed for agricultural use. Farm irrigation efficiency and water use reclamation will further reduce the inflows by 66,000 AFY.

The state model includes a further reduction of 150,000 AFY as the result of greater reductions in agricultural water use and/or the effects of global warming. The Authority believes that these additional state assumed reductions are highly speculative, risky, and set the stage for a future water transfer that would result in great harm to wildlife, human health, and the economic vitality of the Coachella/Imperial Valleys.

Water Body. The Authority position is that the restoration effort must result in a Salton Sea that is vast, unconstrained, and capable of sustaining wildlife, recreation, and economic opportunities. Alternatives which create rings or channeled lakes are unacceptable.

The Authority supports the largest lake possible which requires a commitment that all of the available water remains in the basin to support wildlife habitats, air quality, water quality, and recreation and economic opportunities. The Authority's Plan assumes that there will be no future water transfers out of the Basin. A water body created by inflows from the Whitewater River is unacceptably small (10,000 acres) and constrained. The final water body must include connections to the Alamo and New River inflows in order to reach the desirable size, provide pupfish

habitat connectivity and provide a variety of habitat and recreation opportunities on both ends of the Sea.

The location of the dam and in-sea barriers is also a function of inflows and of soil stability and seismic conditions. There is not enough technical information in the Programmatic EIR to make an exact siting decision at this time. More geotechnical and engineering design information to support a final barrier location will be developed during the project specific EIR/S process. Until project specific information becomes available, the Authority plan assumes locations for barriers based upon the water model assumption.

Water Quality. Using all of the water inflows to maintain the largest possible water bodies will require multiple strategies to address water quality issues.

The current Sea suffers from hydrogen sulfide build up and resulting eruptions that create offensive odors and threaten wildlife and public health. The first line of attack is to stop the external loading caused by high nutrient inflows. The Authority plan includes construction of water treatment plants to address the hydrogen sulfide problem. The Bureau of Reclamation is working cooperatively with the Authority on researching this approach.. Alternatively the Authority has worked with the Bureau and others on a lower tech approach called “Controlled Eutrophication Project” where algae growth is induced in a controlled environment to remove the Phosphorous prior to entering the Sea. Work by Kent Sea Tech has shown promise and is seriously being considered as a replacement strategy for controlling external loading. The project specific EIR will include further exploration of these options.

The existing mass of organic matter existing in the anoxic layer in the north portion of the Sea remains problematic. Once the external nutrient loading is dramatically reduced the internal loading from the existing biomass will significantly be reduced over the first 10 – 15 years and no longer represent a significant threat to wildlife or humans. Scientists differ on the extent of the ongoing problem with a reduced Sea size resulting from the barrier. Scientists do agree that if the water level is reduced to approximately 10 – 12 meters or less, the water mixing will prohibit a Hydrogen Sulfide buildup and resulting eruptions. That would require a lowering of the Sea elevation in the north end by 3-5 meters thus exposing additional shoreline. The Authority believes that water treatment technologies exist to reduce or eliminate this problem.

Shoreline. The existing shoreline should be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Without intervention, the previously legislated water transfer and the reduced inflows resulting from other actions will likely shrink the existing shoreline exposing large areas of former lake bed.

The Authority’s in-sea barrier system allows a “water void” to be created to allow the existing shorelines to be maintained with less overall water. The “void” also creates a discharge for existing high salinity water to be displaced by lower salinity water inflowing from the rivers. The “void” becomes a salt sink into which water is discharged at a variety of different inflows. The water going into the salt

sink is used beneficially to wet the soils from the former lake bed and create salt layers that mitigate the air quality impacts from the water transfer.

The Authority believes that there should be a small lake in the south end of the Sea in order to provide micro-climate protections for nearby agricultural enterprises, a diversity of wildlife habitats, and to create recreational opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat. The Authority supports creation of a diverse wildlife habitat via restoration, including support for a deep sea fishery.

There is approximately 10,000 acres of shoreline habitat around the Sea today. The Authority's Plan proposes 17,000 acres of replacement shallow habitat. Additionally the Authority's Plan includes a 20 square mile lake on the south end of the sea; half of which is access controlled for deep water habitat and the remaining half for recreation. Additionally the 165 – 175 square mile North Sea and the connecting canal create additional diverse habitats for fish and birds. The Controlled Eutrophication Project can provide another 10,000 acres of habitat.

Geothermal Resources

The south end of the Sea contains unique geothermal resources that can be developed into renewable energy that the state needs and desires. The geothermal fields need protection from intruding uses. Exact locations of wildlife habitats will be designed so as to minimize any conflicts between the two uses.

Summary. The Salton Sea Authority Restoration Plan can serve as the basis of a Preferred Alternative that the Secretary of Resources recommends to the Legislature.

Such an alternative would include essential elements of the Authority plan including:

- Retention of a very large open water body in the north and a recreation water body in the south that provides for beneficial use of all of the available inflows.
- Water quality improvements by on farm management techniques, in river wetlands, controlled eutrophication for the south end inflows, and water treatment to reduce the hydrogen sulfide problem or a lower lake level mitigation of resulting air quality problems
- Diversity of wildlife habitats, including deep sea fishery, constructed in a variety of manners and locations in the north and south ends of the Sea.
- Shoreline maintenance to the greatest extent possible.



Communications Strategy Going Forward February 2007

Over the last nine months the Authority has been successful informing and educating the regional stakeholders about the benefits of the Authority plan for restoration. Local support for the plan is broad and deep. Over 5000 individuals have written in support of the plan. Fifty cities, agencies and organizations have adopted formal resolutions of support.

As the Programmatic EIR process winds down and the Secretary of Resources prepares to forward a recommendation for a restoration plan to the state legislature, the arena shifts to the larger state and federal legislative agenda. The Authority communications strategy must respond to this shift.

A state and federal constituency must be developed to support restoration of the Salton Sea. It will take the understanding of a wide group of legislators at the state and federal levels who represent areas far from the Sea. Legislators representing the region will need the support of a significant number of their colleagues in order to provide the necessary funding for restoration. The Authority needs to be constantly and aggressively communicating with those legislators.

Equally important is to develop a communications strategy for other stakeholders including Colorado River Basin States, national environmental organizations, national media, labor, and others.

During the upcoming year, the Authority will spend its available resources to focus on developing a statewide and national constituency for the Salton Sea Restoration.



JURISDICTIONS SUPPORTING THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY RESTORATION PLAN

Governmental Agencies

County of Riverside
County of Imperial
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
City of La Quinta
City of Coachella
City of Cathedral City
City of Indio
City of Calexico
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Palm Springs
City of El Centro
City of Rancho Mirage
Desert Water Agency
Desert Healthcare District
Salton Community Services District
Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Coachella Valley Enterprise Zone
Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport Authority
Mecca Community Council
Oasis Community Council
North Shore Community Council
Sky Valley Community Council
Indio Hills Community Council
Hot Springs Community Council
Thermal Community Council
Riverside County Workforce Development Board
Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority
Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority
Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment



JURISDICTIONS SUPPORTING THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY RESTORATION PLAN

Non-Governmental Agencies

Palm Springs Economic Development Corporation
Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
Imperial Valley Board of Realtors
Rancho Housing Alliance, Inc
Building Industry Association
Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce
Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce
West Shores Chamber of Commerce
Imperial Chamber of Commerce
Indio Chamber of Commerce
Calexico Chamber of Commerce
Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce
Brawley Chamber of Commerce
La Quinta Chamber of Commerce
Coachella Chamber of Commerce
El Centro Chamber of Commerce
All Valley Legislative Coalition

SEC. 3021. SALTON SEA RESTORATION, CALIFORNIA

(a) DEFINITIONS—In this section:

(1) SALTON SEA AUTHORITY-The term “Salton Sea Authority” means the Joint Powers Authority established under the laws of the State of California by a joint power agreement signed on June 2, 1993.

(2) SALTON SEA SCIENCE OFFICE-The term “Salton Sea Science Office” means the Office established by the United States Geological Survey and currently located in La Quinta, California.

(b) RESTORATION PROJECTS-

Deleted: PILOT

(1) IN GENERAL-The Secretary shall review the preferred restoration plan as specified in the October 2006 Programatic Environmental Impact Report, and as approved by the Salton Sea Authority to determine that the restoration projects are economically justified, technically sound, environmentally acceptable, and meet the objectives of the Salton Sea Reclamation Act (Public Law 105-372). If the Secretary makes a positive determination, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority and, in consultation with the Salton Sea Science Office, carry out the restoration projects for improvement of the environment in the Salton Sea, except that the Secretary shall be a party to each contract for construction under this subsection.

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(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS-The Secretary is authorized to implement restoration projects including, but not limited to:

- (A) Early Start Habitat;
- (B) Environmental Compliance Documentation;
- (C) Controlled Eutrophication Project;
- (D) Environmental Monitoring Program.
- (E) Preliminary Design Work for In-Sea Embankments, Water Treatment and Controlled Eutrophication.

Deleted: LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—In prioritizing pilot projects under this section, the Secretary shall—¶

¶ (A) consult with the Salton Sea Authority; and¶

¶ (B) consider the priorities of the Salton Sea Authority.

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(3) COST SHARING.—Before carrying out a restoration project under this section, the Secretary shall enter into a written agreement with the Salton Sea Authority that requires the non-Federal interest to—

(A) pay 35 percent of the total costs of the restoration project;

(B) acquire any land, easements, rights-of way, relocations, and dredged material disposal areas necessary to carry out the restoration project; and

(C) hold the United States harmless from any claim or damage that may arise from carrying out the restoration project, except any claim or damage that may arise from the negligence of the Federal Government or a contractor of the Federal Government.

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(D) CREDIT-

(i) IN GENERAL- The non-Federal interest shall receive credit for the value of any land, easement, right-of-way, relocation, or dredged material disposal area provided for carrying out the restoration project.

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(ii) FORM-The non-Federal interest may provide the non-Federal share in the form of services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind contributions.

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(iii) WORK-The Secretary may provide credit, including in-kind credit, toward the non-Federal share for the reasonable cost of any work performed in connection with a study, preconstruction engineering and design, or construction that is necessary for the implementation of the restoration project(s).

(iv) TREATMENT OF CREDIT BETWEEN PROJECTS- Any credit provided under this paragraph may be carried over between authorized restoration projects.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b) \$26,000,000, of which not more than \$5,000,000 may be used for any 1 restoration project under this section.

Deleted: pilot

SEC. 3021. SALTON SEA RESTORATION, CALIFORNIA – version 2

(a) DEFINITIONS—In this section:

(1) SALTON SEA AUTHORITY-The term “Salton Sea Authority” means the Joint Powers Authority established under the laws of the State of California by a joint power agreement signed on June 2, 1993.

(2) SALTON SEA SCIENCE OFFICE-The term “Salton Sea Science Office” means the Office established by the United States Geological Survey and currently located in La Quinta, California.

(b) RESTORATION PROJECTS-

Deleted: PILOT

(1) IN GENERAL-The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority and, in consultation with the Salton Sea Science Office, design and implement restoration projects for improvement of the environment in the Salton Sea, except that the Secretary shall be a party to each contract for construction under this subsection.

Deleted: The Secretary shall review the preferred restoration concept plan approved by the Salton Sea Authority to determine that the pilot projects are economically justified, technically sound, environmentally acceptable, and meet the objectives of the Salton Sea Reclamation Act (Public Law 105-372). If the Secretary makes a positive determination, the

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(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS-The Secretary is authorized to design and implement restoration projects including, but not limited to:

- (A) Early Start Habitat;
- (B) Environmental Compliance Documentation;
- (C) Controlled Eutrophication Project;
- (D) Environmental Monitoring Program.
- (E) Preliminary Design Work for In-Sea Embankments, Water Treatment and Controlled Eutrophication.

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¶ (B) consider the priorities of the Salton Sea Authority.

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(iii) WORK-The Secretary may provide credit, including in-kind credit, toward the non-Federal share for the reasonable cost of any work performed in connection with a study, preconstruction engineering and design, or construction that is necessary for the implementation of the restoration project(s).

(iv) TREATMENT OF CREDIT BETWEEN PROJECTS- Any credit provided under this paragraph may be carried over between authorized restoration projects.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b) \$26,000,000, of which not more than \$5,000,000 may be used for any 1 restoration project under this section.

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